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OCTOBER No. 17

10¢

# BLACK MAGIC

TRUE AMAZING  
ACCOUNTS OF THE  
STRANGEST STORIES  
EVER TOLD!

magazine

ALL RIGHT--  
TAKE A **LOOK**, GIRL!  
SATISFY YOUR INFERNAL  
CURIOSITY! LOOK  
UPON THE **CURSE**--  
THE FAMILY **FREAK**!

NO! I  
DIDN'T MEAN  
TO PRY AT THE  
LOCK OF THE  
FORBIDDEN  
ROOM--I-





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FALLING  
HAIR

DANDRUFF

HEAD  
ODORS

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I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

E. K., Cleveland, Ohio  
Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.  
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.  
R. W. C., Greens, Ill.  
I was tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! W. T. W., Portola, Cal.  
I feel encouraged to say that the irritating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.  
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

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Ward Laboratories Inc.



You find that your curiosity is stronger than your fear... because the door is locked--and beyond it is a dreadful, nameless something that makes sounds in the night--sounds which draw you into the darkness--to the steps--to the door--well-it's now or never! Open it--and look at the

# FREAK!



Produced by  
**SIMON & KIRBY**

THERE ARE CERTAIN FACTS IN SYLVIA BREWSTER'S STORY THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE TRUE... THAT SHE DID GO OUT WITH **DOCTOR TONY AUSTIN** THAT FATEFUL EVENING OF MARCH 17TH, 1951 -- THAT DOCTOR AUSTIN *DID* HAVE ONE FINAL CALL TO MAKE AFTER HE CALLED FOR SYLVIA...

YOU DON'T MIND, SYLVIA?  
"ONE LAST PATIENT  
TO VISIT -- AND THE  
EVENING WILL  
BE OURS."

WHY *SHOULD* I  
MIND, TONY? IT'S  
A LOVELY RIDE  
OUT INTO THE  
COUNTRY!

I'M AFRAID THIS ISN'T THE TYPE  
OF COUNTRY YOU'D ENJOY, SYLVIA...  
IT'S A RATHER DESOLATE PLACE...

BRRR -- IT *MIGHT*  
BE CHARMING IN THE  
**DAYLIGHT**... BUT --  
WELL, I JUST CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND WHY  
ANYONE WOULD WANT  
TO LIVE IN SUCH  
A LOVELY SECTION...





# BLACK MAGIC



THERE ARE REASONS, SYLVIA... FOLKS HAVE THEIR REASONS!

IT WAS 10:00 P.M. WHEN DOCTOR AUSTIN'S CAR PULLED UP TO THE WEATHER-BEATEN FRAME HOUSE STANDING GRIM AND ALONE IN A SEA OF WEEDS AND MARSHES. THE GIRL DREW HER COAT TIGHTLY ABOUT HER AS IF TO PROTECT HERSELF FROM AN INVISIBLE WIND WHICH BLEW THROUGH THE WARM, HUMID NIGHT...

SYLVIA—I HATE TO ASK YOU TO WAIT OUTSIDE, BUT...

NO! NO, TONY, LET ME COME IN WITH YOU—I'M FRIGHTENED—



I WON'T STAY OUT HERE ALONE—THAT'S FINAL!

I WAS A FOOL TO BRING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE! COME ALONG—



THAT YOU, DOCTOR? WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT TONIGHT—LOOKS LIKE A STORM'S BREWING!

COME IN, SYLVIA, I'LL TRY NOT TO BE LONG!



NOW IS HE?

HE'S QUIET NOW—YOU'D BETTER GO UP AND GET IT OVER WITH—



THESE ARE THE SHERIDANS, AND THEIR SON, BART, SYLVIA... I'M SURE THEY'LL MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE. I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!

YOU CAN SIT IN THIS ROOM, MISS!





# BLACK MAGIC

SYLVIA BREWSTER'S RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED INCLUDE LITTLE CONVERSATION... IN THE DIM LIGHT OF A KEROSENE LAMP SHE SAT RIGID AND FRIGHTENED, A CRINGING TARGET FOR THE COLD, STARING EYES OF THE STRANGERS ABOUT HER...

I-IT'S A NASTY NIGHT OUT-- ISN'T IT--



IS HE VERY SICK? -- THE PATIENT, I MEAN--

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM!-- DID DOC AUSTIN SAY ANYTHING--?



W-WHY NO! AS A MATTER OF FACT THE DOCTOR DIDN'T EVEN WANT ME TO COME INSIDE THE HOUSE! -- IS IT SOMETHING CONTAGIOUS?

HMPH--



I SHOULD BE UP THERE WITH HIM!-- HE'D WANT ME THERE-- I KNOW--

THE DOCTOR HANDLES HIM RIGHT WELL, MA... DON'T YOU FRET!



FOR PITY'S SAKE, STOP IT! BOTH OF YOU! WHY DO YOU COO AND COO OVER THAT WRETCHED THING AS IF IT WERE A NEWBORN BABY! SOME-TIMES I WISH--

BART!



CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOUR MOTHER?





# BLACK MAGIC

THE MEN STOOD GLARING AT EACH OTHER, WHILE THE WOMAN SLUMPED IN HER CHAIR, WRINGING HER HANDS IN ANGUISH--SYLVIA BREWSTER HELD HER BREATH, FEARFUL, LEST HER SLIGHTEST MOTION IGNITE THE TENSION OF THAT AWFUL MOMENT OF SILENCE.



WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE?  
TONY--TONY!

GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, GIRL! I--IT'S NONE OF YOUR AFFAIR!



HE'S YOUR OWN BROTHER, BART! YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!

THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN EATING AWAY AT MY INSIDES FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS! -- KNOWING THAT -- THING IS MY BROTHER!



AT TEN-FORTY-FIVE P.M., THE STORM REACHED ITS MOST FURIOUS PITCH... BUT THE RAGING ELEMENTS WERE DWAFFED BY THE HORROR THAT STRUCK THE EARS OF THE UNWELCOME VISITOR IN THE SHERIDAN HOUSE THAT NIGHT! AS IF INSPIRED BY THE BLACK CHAOS OUTSIDE, A SERIES OF AGONIZED, UNEARTHLY SCREAMS SHOOK THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE!



BY ALL THAT'S GOOD -- I'VE HAD MY FILL OF THIS!



-- LISTENING TO THE SICKENING SOUNDS HE MAKES IN THAT ROOM OF HIS -- TO THE HOWLS AND SCREAMS -- I SAY THERE'S GOT TO BE AN END TO IT NOW!





# BLACK MAGIC



SYLVIA BREWSTER WAS SHOWN TO A SMALL, SPARSELY FURNISHED BEDROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ANCIENT HOUSE. SHE TRIED TO SLEEP, BUT ONLY SUCCEEDED IN DOZING OFF FITFULLY-- LIGHTLY--

IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, SYLVIA WAS AWAKENED BY A STRANGE, MUFFLED SOBBING DIRECTLY ABOVE HER. SHE REACHED FOR A DRESSING GOWN...





# BLACK MAGIC

I-I CAN'T SEE ANY-  
THING IN THIS DARKNESS!  
-- WHERE ARE YOU?  
CAN YOU SPEAK  
TO ME?

SYLVIA GROPED HER WAY ALONG THE DARKENED  
CORRIDOR-- TOWARD THE SOURCE OF THE  
STRANGE SOUNDS. HER FOOT FOUND THE STEPS  
LEADING TO THE ATTIC-- THEN THE SMALL  
LADDER-- THEN THE TRAP DOOR ABOVE IT...



AT THIS POINT, SYLVIA BREWSTER'S  
TESTIMONY BECOMES VAGUE AND DISCONNECTED...  
SHE DESCRIBES A SUDDEN SCUFFING SOUND-- A  
COARSE BONY HAND GRASPING FRANTICALLY  
AT HER ANKLES-- AND THEN SHE SCREAMED!

HELP!  
HELP  
ME!



A MOMENT LATER, THE LIGHT OF A LANTERN PIERCED THE  
TERRIBLE DARKNESS-- ILLUMINATING THE ATTIC ROOM IN  
ITS FULL INDESCRIBABLE HORROR!

THERE HE IS, SISTER! YOU  
WANTED TO SEE HIM. HOW  
DO YOU LIKE HIM--

OH!





# BLACK MAGIC



MY BROTHER --  
THE FAMILY --  
**FREAK!**



W-W-WHY DID  
HE STRIKE  
AT ME?

HE THOUGHT IT WAS I --  
COMING UP TO DO AWAY  
WITH HIM! HE HATES ME! --  
AND HE **FEARS** ME -- FOR,  
GOOD REASON, TOO!



**DON'T** SHRINK FROM ME,  
BROTHER! IT'S **TIME** YOUR  
WRETCHED LIFE CAME TO  
AN END! IT'LL BE  
BETTER -- FOR  
ALL OF US!



**SSQEEEEEEEEE**



**TONY --** THEY  
UPSET THE  
LAMP -- THE  
ATTIC'S ON  
FIRE!

**GREAT SCOTT!**  
SYLVIA! QUICK!



**TONY! TONY!**  
GET ME OUT  
OF HERE!  
GET ME OUT  
OF HERE!

DOCTOR AUSTIN CARRIED THE HYSTERICAL GIRL  
THROUGH THE ACRID SMOKE INTO THE CHILL  
OF THE STORM -- AS THE ROARING FLAME MOUNTED,  
THE SCREAMS OF THE TRAPPED BROTHERS  
GREW FAINTER -- AND THERE WAS NOTHING HE  
COULD DO FOR THEM.



# BLACK MAGIC

SYLVIA BREWSTER REMEMBERS NOTHING FURTHER OF THAT NIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF HORROR -- WEEKS LATER, SHE REPORTED HER STRANGE TALE. THE AUTHORITIES LISTENED WITH DOUBT AND EMBARRASSMENT!

I TELL YOU IT **HAPPENED**, INSPECTOR! EXACTLY AS I DESCRIBED IT!

I'VE CHECKED THE COUNTY BIRTH RECORDS, MISS --

THERE'S NO MENTION OF A SECOND SON EVER BEING BORN TO THE SHERIDANS! WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY, DOCTOR?

MISTER AND MRS. SHERIDAN ARE STILL ALIVE -- I MUST STAND ON MY PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS NOT TO DIVULGE THE CONFIDENCES OF MY PATIENTS!



HERE'S **PROOF** THAT SPEAKS THE TRUTH! THE CHAIN AND COLLAR THAT HELD THE FREAK!

IT **COULD** HAVE BEEN USED FOR -- A **DOG**!

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW HE WAS KEPT -- POOR CREATURE! I TELL YOU I **SAW** HIM! WITH MY OWN TWO EYES! WON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?



SORRY, MISS, FOR LACK OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, WE'LL HAVE TO CALL THIS CASE -- **CLOSED**.

THE CHARRED SKELETON OF THE HOUSE IN THE MARSH STILL STANDS ON THE BLEAK AND LONELY COUNTRYSIDE THAT ONCE ECHOED TO THE UNEARTHLY SHRIEKS OF THE THING IN THE ATTIC... **BEAST OR HUMAN -- OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH -- NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW FOR CERTAIN. PERHAPS IT IS BETTER THAT WAY!**







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# BLACK MAGIC

THERE IS ONE TO WATCH OVER EVERY MAN. WHAT SHAPE IT TAKES IS HARD TO DETERMINE.. BUT, IT IS THERE WHEN WE NEED IT! JERRY FOUND THAT OUT WHEN HE WAS FORCED INTO A TIGHT CORNER-AND SHOWN THE ONLY WAY OUT--BY HIS

## Guardian Angel!!



Y-YOU - KEEP AWAY FROM ME! LEAVE ME ALONE! LEAVE ME ALONE!

THAT'S ONE THING - I CAN NEVER DO, JERRY! I'M AFRAID-- I'LL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS! THAT'S MY JOB! TO BE WITH YOU FROM BIRTH TO THE GRAVE!

THE STORY HAS BEEN TOLD IN THE NEWSPAPERS SO MANY TIMES. NO ONE BELIEVES IT OF COURSE! A KILLER, A CHEAP HOODLUM-CORNERED IN A TENEMENT IS HARDLY LIKELY TO HAVE AN ANGEL FOR A COMPANION AND YET-- THERE WAS THE STORY--

YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES YOUNG, JUST FIVE! COME OUT OR WE'LL COME AND GET YOU!

I-I'M DONE! T-THEY'VE GOT ME COLD--



YOU'RE AFRAID, AREN'T YOU, JERRY! BUT THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO BE AFRAID-- BELIEVE ME.

WHAT IN BLAZES --! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?





# BLACK MAGIC



WHY, I'VE BEEN WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, WHEN THAT POLICEMAN ON THE CORNER RECOGNIZED YOU... WHEN YOU RAN IN HERE... I'M YOUR **GUARDIAN ANGEL, JERRY!**

YOU'RE MY **WHAT?**

"YOU MAY CALL ME **JOHN,**" THE STRANGER PURRED... "IT'S AS GOOD A NAME AS ANY!" THE WAY JERRY YOUNG TOLD IT AFTERWARD THE MAN WAS JUST... A MAN! NOTHING SPECIAL!

YOUR **GUARDIAN ANGEL, JERRY.** EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS ONE, YOU KNOW! SO YOU STILL WANT TO KEEP RUNNING, DO YOU? WELL... HAVE YOU NOTICED... **THIS?**

A DUMB-WAITER! NO! I DIDN'T SEE IT! I... YOU MEAN... I CAN TRY TO GET OUT THROUGH THE CELLAR! SURE! AND GET **SHOT!** THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR ME!



NO, JERRY! THEY WON'T... BELIEVE ME! THERE'S A CAR ON THE NEXT BLOCK... WITH THE KEYS IN THE IGNITION! A RED AND BLACK CONVERTIBLE! YOU CAN GET TO IT... IF YOU TAKE THIS REAR CELLAR ENTRANCE!

THERE WAS MORE OF COURSE! UNTIL JERRY YOUNG WAS QUITE CONVINCED THAT HE WAS DEALING WITH A MADMAN... OR A POLICE SPY! BUT HE HAD **LITTLE** TO LOSE...

NOW DON'T WASTE TIME, JERRY!

OKAY! I'LL TRY IT! BUT, I'LL PAY YOU OFF FIRST... JUST IN CASE YOU'RE SENDING ME INTO A TRAP!



**GUARDIAN ANGEL!** WAH! **DEAD STOOLIE** IS MORE LIKE IT! FUNNY... I DON'T SEE ANY COPS...

**HERE, JERRY!** ...TO YOUR LEFT!



**A-A-A-A!** I... I JUST SHOT YOU... PUT TWO BULLETS IN YOUR WIDE...

QUIET, JERRY! WE WON'T MANAGE THIS... IF YOU SHOUT!



TREMBLING, SHAKEN TO THE CORE OF HIS BEING, JERRY YOUNG TOOK THAT OFFERED HAND...

THE MAN WHO OWNED THIS CAR **DIED** AN HOUR AGO, JERRY... OF A HEART ATTACK! IT WILL BE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CAR IS REPORTED MISSING! FOLLOW ROUTE 42... OUT OF THE CITY!

**HOLD ON!** BEFORE I GO... YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!





# BLACK MAGIC



JERRY YOUNG DROVE ALL THAT DAY AND THE NEXT! THEN, HE ABANDONED THE CAR! BY THEN, EVEN HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT ALL! IT HAD BEEN SOME SORT OF DREAM! IN A WEEK HE WAS A THOUSAND MILES AWAY AND HUNGRY!

THERE MUST BE PLENTY OF FOOD IN THERE! AND NOBODY AROUND BUT A WOMAN! I'LL MAKE HER RUSTLE UP SOME GRUB... AND MOVE ON...



I'M CAROL JENSEN! I LIVE HERE! AND THAT'S MY MOMMY! WE'RE AWFUL LONESOME! WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY WITH US?



CAROL? WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? OH! WILL YOU STATE YOUR BUSINESS, PLEASE?

I WAS GOING BY ON THE ROAD... AND I SMELLED COOKING!



YOU'RE HUNGRY? YES, MA'AM! HUNGRY... AND BROKE! I... I COULD CHOP SOME OF THAT WOOD FOR A MEAL... IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...



AFTERWARD, JERRY YOUNG WAS TO INSIST THAT IT WAS AS IF SOMEONE STOOD AT HIS SHOULDER... WHISPERING TO HIM THE WORDS HE MUST SAY! AND THEY WERE THE RIGHT WORDS!

GEE, MOMMY! I LIKE HIM! HE'S NICE!

AT LEAST HE'S WILLING TO WORK FOR A MEAL! THAT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN SAY FOR MOST OF THE TRAMPS WHO COME BY!





# BLACK MAGIC

IT JUST... HAPPENED... THAT JERRY YOUNG STAYED ON FOR WEEKS, DOING ODD JOBS, SLEEPING IN THE LITTLE ROOM OVER THE BARN...

SHE WAS A FINE WOMAN! NOT THE KIND JERRY HAD ALWAYS KNOWN! HE DREW HER TO HIM AND KISSED HER!

I... I'M SORRY! HOPE YOU'RE NOT OFFENDED!

IT WAS JUST THE MOON-LIGHT, JERRY!

I KNEW YOU'D BE OUT HERE, JERRY! NICE NIGHT, ISN'T IT?

YEAH! I'VE BEEN SITTING OUT HERE LOOKING AT THE STARS! I NEVER NOTICED BEFORE HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE!



YOU SHOULD USE MORE CAUTION! I... I COULD BE A CROOK... OR A MURDERER...

I'D NEVER BELIEVE THAT OF YOU, JERRY! WHY, CAROL AND I TRUST YOU WITH OUR LIVES! GOOD NIGHT, JERRY...



SHE TRUSTS ME WITH HER LIFE... WHAT A LAUGH!

WHY SHOULD THAT AMUSE YOU, MY BOY?



YOU AGAIN! SO GUARDIAN ANGELS READ THOUGHTS TOO, EH! WELL... I SUPPOSE THEY CAN...

I SAID I'D BE WITH YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME! YOU'RE IN TROUBLE AGAIN, JERRY! THIS AFTERNOON WHEN YOU WENT TO TOWN FOR THE GROCERIES YOU WERE RECOGNIZED!



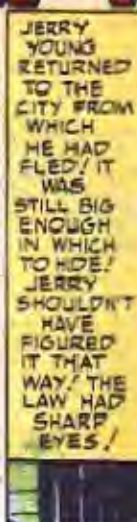
YOUR PICTURE IS ON A WANTED POSTER IN THE POST OFFICE! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE, JERRY! NOW! THE MAN WHO SAW YOU IS ON HIS WAY HERE WITH THE SHERIFF...

LEAVE? LEAVE HER AND CAROL?





# BLACK MAGIC





# I WOULDN'T LET HIM DIE

MY brother Bob and I were no closer than most brothers when we were in grade school, but during our last years in high school we seemed to grow together more and more spiritually as well as physically. Although there was a year between us, both of us reached the six foot level at the same time and both of us weighed in at 180. We were on the football team together and people frequently spoke of us as twins, although he was fair while I am dark.



After graduation, I decided to work for my Dad in his garage and wait for Bob so we could go to college together. It was a good idea, but Bob graduated in June, 1942.

We enlisted in the Marines together and our first disappointment came when we were assigned to different training schools. My experience as a mechanic was the first real difference between us.

We did maneuver our first leave together, and Mother was brave and smiling, although belligerent. "Admiral Stevens is my second cousin," she said. "I'll write him immediately and get you boys into the same outfit."

"It doesn't seem fair that Bill should have waited for Bob and missed him like this," my Dad said. But Bob and I only smiled at one another and nixed the idea. We had a feeling things would work out—without any parental influence.

It did. Bob was through at San Diego the same time I finished at San Francisco and we weren't surprised at all to find we'd been assigned to the same outfit. It had to happen that way; they just couldn't separate us!

Everything went along fine as could be under the circumstances until that day when we arrived at Okinawa. We'd been waiting for two weeks, not knowing for sure what part we were to play. Then, suddenly, we moved in.

Bob was in the initial wave: I was to follow in the second. But somebody's wires got crossed. We knew it as soon as they went ashore: not only had we been apprehended, but the Japs were waiting for us. The entire shore line was trapped with mines and my party was immediately cancelled. Even now, I can remember the hideous, helpless feeling I had, watching Bob literally fall apart before my eyes.

I guess I went crazy for a while. I remember trying to force my way through water after him. Then someone hit me and when I was conscious I was in a berth at ship's hospital and we were far in the Pacific again.

Something happened to me, I don't know what, but I refused to believe Bob was dead. Call it a guilt complex because he was my baby brother, call it shell shock, call it whatever you will but I could not force myself to realize I had seen Bob die.

Complete blackness engulfed my mind whenever Bob entered it. I refused to think about it. When I wrote home, I mentioned Bob as casually as if he were standing beside me. And the funny thing about it was, I believed it myself.

We tried the landing again at another point and were successful. This time I insisted on being in the first wave, figuring, I guess, that I'd be blown up, too. I wasn't, but I was injured and sent home for a rest.

My folks had moved to a town about a hundred miles away from our previous home. And it was when my Dad met me at the station, I realized I would have to accept the truth. They'd received the War Department's official notice that Bob had been killed in action.

I felt sick when I met Mother's eyes. I wanted to tell her it wasn't true, yet no words would come. Finally, in desperation I signalled my Dad with an excuse. I hadn't been home ten minutes, yet I had to get away.

We walked down the main street of the little town and I tried to put my feelings into words. It was hard, especially with Dad looking at me as if I didn't deserve to be loose on leave. And yet, telling it all over, I felt more strongly than ever, that Bob was alive.

Suddenly, just ahead of us, I saw the deliberate familiar shuffle that meant one thing—Bob. "Dad," I cried, "It's Bob!" My Dad put out a restraining hand. But Bob, for it was he, had heard my cry and turned to face us!

"Hi, fella," he said, shaking my hand, tears of happiness running down both our faces. "I knew you'd be home on leave!" He embraced my father. "You sure make it tough for a guy to find you," he complained. "I didn't have your street address."

Bob explained that he'd been taken prisoner and finally had managed to escape. But neither of us could explain the feeling I had—for even when I'd seen it, I'd refused to let him die.



## PARTIAL CONTENTS

- How to "Break the Ice"
- How to Make Everyday Events Sound Interesting
- How to Make Your Sweetheart Write More Often
- How to Express Your Love
- How to Make (or Break) a Date
- How to Acknowledge a Gift
- How to "Make Up"
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# BLACK MAGIC

WAS IT JUST A HALLOWEEN PRANK? ONE COULDN'T BE SURE -- WHEN HE HEARD THE...

## HOOF BEATS OF THE DEVIL'S HORSE

IN THE TOWN OF MILFORD-- HALLOWEEN -- 1947...





AW, YOU **KNOW** IT'S ONLY ME, GRANDPA! WHY PRETEND ANY MORE? THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN MAY HAVE BEEN A GREAT GHOST GIMMICK YEARS AGO... BUT, TODAY, IT ISN'T EVEN A GOOD KID GAME!



I **SEE!** YOU YOUNG SMART ALECKS HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT. HAVEN'T YOU? SO GHOSTS ARE TAME STUFF TO YOU...

WELL, THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU MUST LEARN, YOUNG MAN! THIS STORY I'M GOING TO TELL SHOULD BE ONE OF THEM!



IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN IN FARNSWORTH'S ICE CREAM PARLOR ON MAIN STREET... SOME FORTY YEARS AGO! CLEO FIELDS, BEN CRAIG, AND I, LIKE THREE SINISTER PLOTTERS SAT EAGERLY CONTRIVING A SCHEME THAT WOULD OUTSHINE ANY OTHER HALLOWEEN PRANK EVER CONCEIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

WELL, WHAT'LL IT BE, MASTER MINDS... DO WE PUT MISTER KELLY'S HAY WAGON ON TOP OF HIS BARN AGAIN?

OLD STUFF! THIS PRANK MUST HAVE THE TRUE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT! THIS HAS TO BE A REAL **SCARY ONE!**

SAY! DO EITHER OF YOU... REMEMBER THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW?



GREAT! WHICH ONE OF YOU PLAYS THE HEADLESS HESSIAN HORSEMAN...

SHHH... SOMEONE WILL OVER-HEAR US IN THIS PLACE!

TELL YOU WHAT! SUPPOSE WE MEET AT KELLY'S BARN IN **TWENTY MINUTES**... AND GET THIS STUNT ON ITS WAY!



I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT AFTER-NOON! AND NEITHER WILL CLEO! POOR GIRL! WHEN SHE CAME TO THE BARN DOOR LATER, HER EYES ALMOST POPPED OUT OF HER HEAD!

FRED! BEN, WHERE ARE... **OOHH-H... HELP!**



GREAT SCOTT! KEEP QUIET, CLEO... OR YOU'LL DRAW THE WHOLE TOWN TO THIS SPOT AND **SPOIL THE GAG!**



# BLACK MAGIC

A MOMENT LATER, COLD STILL FRIGHTENED AND BADLY SHAKEN, CLEO HELPED US CARRY OUT OUR CONSPIRACY! A RENTED COSTUME, AND A BORROWED HORSE WERE ALL WE NEEDED TO BRING THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN BACK TO MILFORD...

BETTER HIDE THAT RIG, FRED, BEFORE SOMEONE COMES IN AND DISCOVERS OUR PLOT! I **KNOW** IT WILL WORK, CLEO! FOLKS IN THIS TOWN ARE PRETTY SUPERSTITIOUS! THIS SHENANIGAN WILL STAND THEM ON THEIR HEADS!

THIS COULD THROW THE TOWN INTO A PANIC AND FOLKS MIGHT GET HURT! I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD CARE FOR THAT KIND OF HUMOR EVEN ON HALLOWEEN!

NONSENSE! WE'LL CATCH THE MIDNIGHT CROWD COMING FROM THAT DANCE ON MAIN STREET. CAN'T YOU JUST HEAR THE **SCREAMS** WHEN THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN PAST THEM...

OH, IT WAS A GREAT STUNT, PETER! I KNEW IT WOULD WORK! IN THAT COSTUME AND SCARLET CLOAK I LOOKED LIKE THE DEAD HESSIAN HIMSELF! THAT EVENING EVERYONE IN TOWN GATHERED AT THE TOWN AUDITORIUM AND THE DANCE BEGAN! AH, PETER, IT WAS A WONDERFUL PARTY.

WHAT A CROWD! EVERYONE IN TOWN MUST BE HERE!

I CAN'T WAIT FOR MIDNIGHT! THE FUN REALLY STARTS AFTER THE DANCE IS OVER.

THERE'S OLD MAN SEELEY! THE KIDS HAVE HIM CORNERED! THEY WON'T LET HIM GO UNTIL HE TELLS 'EM A HALLOWEEN STORY!

GOOD OLD POP SEELEY, HE WAS ALMOST A LEGEND HIMSELF! PETER, THE OLD MAN WAS THE TOWN'S OLDEST AND BEST LOVED RESIDENT. PETER, YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED HIM! HE COULD REALLY TELL A STORY!

PLEASE, MISTER SEELEY! TELL US A STORY ABOUT HALLOWEEN!

TELL US THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW! MY DAD SAYS YOU CAN TELL IT BETTER THAN ANYONE IN TOWN!

JUST THIS ONCE, SIR...

ALL RIGHT! I'M TRAPPED! REMEMBER JUST **ONE** STORY! WELL, AS I RECALL, THE STORY ABOUT THAT STUBBORN HESSIAN SOLDIER BEGAN DURING THE **AMERICAN REVOLUTION!**



TEN MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT I QUIETLY LEFT THE PARTY. BEN AND CLEO MET ME ON THE STREET A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

HURRY FRED YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!  
I HOPE NOTHING GOES WRONG! I'M SO EXCITED! THE ENTIRE TOWN WILL STAY BEHIND LOCKED DOORS FOR WEEKS WHEN THIS IS OVER!  
IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW WELL WE CARRY IT OFF!



AFTER THE HORSEMAN VANISHED IN THE NIGHT THE SMELL OF BRIMSTONE LINGERED IN THE AIR FOR DAYS... THERE WASN'T A PERSON IN TOWN WHO EVER REALLY GOT OVER HIS FRIGHT!

HA/HA/HA! THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN PRETTY MAD IF THEY'D KNOWN IT WAS YOU ALL TIME!  
HA/HA YOURSELF! I WAS THE MOST FRIGHTENED ONE OF ALL! I STILL AM!



BUT WHY GRAMPS, YOU KNEW IT WAS ALL A GAS! YOU THOUGHT OF IT!  
YES, BUT I NEVER CARRIED IT OUT! MY HORSE THREW A SHOE ON THE WAY TO TOWN... I WAS WALKING HIM ALONG THE ROAD... WHEN I HEARD THE RISING SOUND THAT ROLLED BY ME LATER LIKE A FIERY BLAST... THE DEVIL'S HOOF BEATS!



WELL, PETER... THE HORSEMAN RODE THAT EERIE NIGHT! THE HOOF BEATS OF HIS HORSE WAS THE DEVIL'S TATTOO IN THE DARKNESS... AND HE BURST INTO THE LIGHT OF MAIN STREET LIKE AN EVIL CLAP OF THUNDER... THROWING FIERY HOOF SPARKS INTO THE SCATTERING SHRIEKING CROWD...



RUN, RUN!  
IT'S THE GHOST OF THAT HEAD-LESS HESSIAN!

## THE SKIN NOBODY LOVES!



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THE END



# WARNING



ROY Bonds woke slowly to realize that he was lying in a pool of his own perspiration. His whole body was soaked and he was aware of a stifling heat that smothered him so he could hardly breathe.

Staggering to the window, he threw it open. A light snow fell outside, the first snow of the season. A cold blast of wind hit him, but did not cool his body. He stood, breathing laboriously, letting the cold wind dry the sweat on his body, but the heat from within continued to roll over him like blankets of fire.

This was no ordinary fever. He felt fine, except for the intense heat. What was it? He walked over to the steam radiator; it was cold.

Just then a knock came at the door; he threw on a robe and answered it. It was Mrs. Anderson, his landlady, with two blankets. "The furnace is on the bum," she said, "you'll need these two blankets before morning. I've got a man coming to look at it tomorrow."

He thanked her absently and took the blankets. Couldn't she see he was burning up? Blankets! Suddenly he wished he'd said something to the woman, for he could not understand this thing. He was not easily frightened—apparently he had not looked sick. What was it then that left his mind clear even as it drained every ounce of water from his heavy body?

He looked at the clock. He had been in bed only two hours. It seemed like a week. What had he been doing in bed so early? Of course! He was going back to the Refinery tonight. Every available man had been alerted to help find the gas leak. Gas had been gathering fast when he left. If they didn't find it soon there would be an explosion—a bad one.

What time was he supposed to report? Midnight? Ah, but he couldn't go, feeling like this. The boys had probably found the leak, anyway. Surely there would have been an explosion by this time if they hadn't.

The night was ten years long. He rolled, he

tossed, he walked the floor, he smoked heavily, but he could not sleep. And always the heat, the smothering heat. By daylight he was completely drained of strength, but he managed to make it to the telephone, to report in that he was ill and would not appear for work.

He forgot to ask about the gas leak, but he didn't have to ask. Back in his room the heat suddenly left his body and he felt normal in every respect except for the tiredness. He was just crawling into bed, knowing that now he could sleep, when the explosion came.

Once again he ran to the window and threw it open. The concussion still rocked houses, shattered windows. He could see wood, steel and twisted debris floating weirdly in the air. Great belching oil smoke screened and distorted the broken bodies borne high by the blast. Not wanting to think, Roy threw on his clothes and ran from the house. He was thankful that the sickness had passed, that the anxiety of the night before had been changed into action. He hoped he could be of some use.

He scurried through the gates and was two blocks from the scene of the explosion when, as it had left, the heat struck his body again. Sweat broke out and before he could take a dozen steps, his clothing was soaked. The intense, suffocating blinding warmth defied him to move!

This time Roy knew what it was. He recognized it as a warning. It had happened the night before so that he would not report for work. It was happening now so that he would stay away from the scene of another explosion. In his mind he had been able to see the gas storage tank in the vicinity of the fire. It was inevitable that it should explode next.

Roy was able to turn toward the street. He was aware of many people, of shouting, of sirens and fire engines coming from all sides. But his fear now was greater than the heat. Blindly, hysterically, he began to run, faster and faster away from danger. He could not help himself.

He could not help himself, either, as the big fire truck speeded toward him, roaring wildly. There was a screech of brakes and a terrifying scream just before the truck bore Roy's body to shreds.



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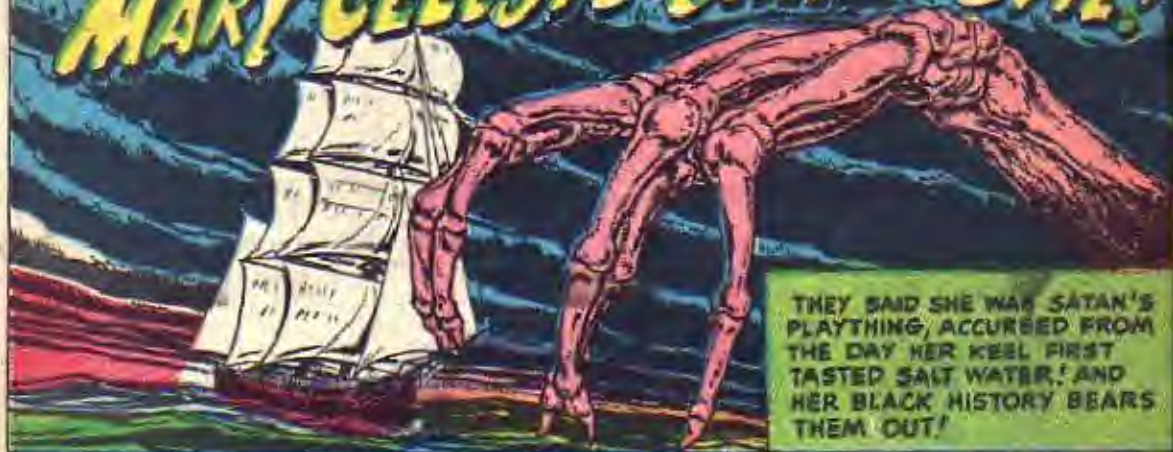
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SENT ON APPROVAL



# BLACK MAGIC

## The MARY CELESTE: SHIP OF EVIL!



THEY SAID SHE WAS SATAN'S PLAYTHING, ACCURSED FROM THE DAY HER KEEL FIRST TASTED SALT WATER! AND HER BLACK HISTORY BEARS THEM OUT!

SHE WAS FOUND OFF THE COAST OF PORTUGAL ON DEC. 4, 1872. A BRIG WITH ALL SAILS SET, HOLDING A STEADY COURSE... AND YET THERE WAS NO HELMSMAN AT THE WHEEL!

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

CAPTAIN DEVEAU... IT... IT'S INSANE! HER LOG SHOWS SHE CARRIED A CAPTAIN BRIGGS, HIS WIFE AND NINE SEAMEN! BUT THEY'RE GONE, AS IF THE DEVIL HIMSELF HAD SNATCHED THEM!



ELEVEN SOULS... GONE! AND A SHIP THAT SAILED HERSELF! BUT THAT WAS ONLY PART OF THE TA BACK IN ENGLAND. WEEKS LATER, THE QUEEN'S PROCTOR HELD INQUIRY...

I TELL YOU, SIRS, THE MARY CELESTE IS AN EVIL VESSEL! I KNOW! I BUILT HER! TWO OF HER CAPTAINS ARE DEAD! TWICE SHE'S STRUCK SHOALS! SHE'S A DEVIL SHIP!

RIDICULOUS! THIS THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, SIR! THE CREW OF THE MARY CELESTE HAS VANISHED! BUT AN EXPLANATION EXISTS! AND WE SHALL FIND IT!



BUT THE EXPLANATION WAS NEVER FOUND! NOR WAS THIS THE END! THE MARY CELESTE WAS TO SAIL AGAIN!... OFF MONTEVIDEO...

OUR DECK LOAD GONE, RIGGING FOULED... AND ALL BECAUSE OF A STORM! A DINGHY COULD HAVE RIDDEN OUT! BAH! SHE'S ROTTEN TO THE HEART!



THE PORT OF ST. HELENA...

INCREDIBLE! YOUR CAPTAIN WAS ILL, YES! BUT TO DIE SO QUICKLY!

THIS IS THE BRIG MARY CELESTE, DOCTOR! WHY WOULD HE NOT DIE SO QUICKLY?



MEN SAILED HER... AND DIED! MEN BOUGHT HER AND WENT BANKRUPT! DEATH AND DESTRUCTION RODE HER WAKE! AND AT PORT AUPRINCE, MAY ON JAN. 3, 1885...



SO DIED THE MARY CELESTE. THOUGH HER SKIPPER LIVED... TO BE TRIED FOR SINKING HER FOR HER INSURANCE! BUT THE MYSTERY REMAINS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW OF THE ACCURSED BRIG WHO CAN SAY THE LOG OF THE DEVIL SHIP IS CLOSED!



# BLACK MAGIC

It was a beautiful statue... but then, why shouldn't it be? It contained

## The SOUL OF A MAN



WALTER PETTIBONE, ONE OF THE FOREMOST ART DEALERS OF OUR DAY, WAS FIRST TO STUMBLE UPON THE EXISTENCE OF THIS AMAZING CRAFTSMAN!

I TELL YOU, PETER, THE MAN IS THE PEER OF MICHELANGELO, IF NOT SUPERIOR!

COME ON, NOW, WALTER! THAT'S A PRETTY STRONG STATEMENT-- ESPECIALLY COMING FROM A MAN OF YOUR REPUTATION!



THAT ALONE SHOULD CONVINCE YOU. BUT COME WITH ME, YOU MAY DOUBT WHAT YOU HEAR-- NEVER, WHAT YOU SEE!





# BLACK MAGIC

SEE HERE, COOPER, I'VE TAKEN JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOUR...

THERE'S THE DOOR, MISTER MANSFIELD! I DIDN'T INVITE YOU UP HERE!



WHY, YOU ARRO—

PLEASE, MISTER MANSFIELD/HARRY IS ALWAYS A LITTLE HIGH-STRUNG WHEN HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD! WHY DON'T YOU DROP BACK SOME OTHER TIME...



"I HAD COOLED DOWN SOMEWHAT BY THE TIME I REACHED PETTIBONE'S SHOP..."

I TELL YOU, WALTER, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW THOROUGHLY EVIL THIS COOPER IS! IT MAKES YOU WONDER HOW ONE SO UGLY INSIDE CAN TURN OUT SUCH BEAUTY!

SOUNDS LIKE HE MIGHT BE TOUGH TO DEAL WITH! BUT THE GIRL... WE MIGHT MANAGE IT WITH THE GIRL...



THAT'S ANOTHER THING THAT BOTHERS ME! SHE EVIDENTLY ADORES THE GUY... AND YET, I COULDN'T PICTURE A MAN WITH LESS APPEAL TO A WOMAN! IT DOESN'T ADD UP, WALTER! IT DOESN'T ADD UP!



"SOMETHING WAS FISHY ABOUT THE SETUP! I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT, BUT I KNEW, AS SURE AS I WAS BORN, THERE WAS MORE TO THIS THAN MET THE EYE! WHEN I GOT TO MY HOTEL ROOM THAT NIGHT, THERE WAS A MESSAGE FOR ME... A MESSAGE THAT MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED ME THAT MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!



Mr. Mansfield—  
Can you come to Harry's studio tonight? I need your help badly.  
Rourke

"A CAB TOOK ME ACROSS TOWN IN FIFTEEN MINUTES! WHEN I GOT TO THE THIRD FLOOR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED TO SEE, BUT IT CERTAINLY WASN'T THE SIGHT THAT MET MY EYES!

GOOD GRAY! WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

COME INSIDE... QUICKLY! AND, DON'T BOTHER ABOUT ME! I HAD AN ACCIDENT! I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS!





# BLACK MAGIC

"I FOLLOWED PETTIBONE INTO HIS OFFICE. HALF-SMILING, BUT THE SMILE WAS SOON TO DISAPPEAR, FOR THERE ON HIS DESK WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WORK OF ART I'D EVER SEEN IN MY FIFTEEN YEARS AS A PROFESSIONAL CRITIC."

GREAT SCOTT! YOU WERE RIGHT, WALTER. IT'S A MASTERPIECE! IT RANKS WITH THE GREATEST WORKS EVER DONE!

IT OUTDOES THEM! AND SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT THERE'S AN EVIL QUALITY ABOUT IT! I DON'T KNOW WHY IT SHOULD STRIKE ME THAT WAY!

EVIL OR NOT, SUCH DRAMATIC INTENSITY OF LINE HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR CENTURIES! WHO ON EARTH IS THE SCULPTOR, WALTER?

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT! I'LL GIVE YOU HIS ADDRESS! INTERVIEW HIM! SEE WHAT ELSE HE'S DONE! WHAT HE IS DOING NOW! I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM!



BUT, REMEMBER... DON'T BREATHE A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE! PLAY ALONG WITH ME, MANSFIELD! YOU KNOW I CAN BE MOST GENEROUS!

WALTER, YOU'RE A SHREWD OPERATOR! IT'S A DEAL! I'LL LOOK UP THIS GENIUS RIGHT NOW!

THE ADDRESS TURNED OUT TO BE A COLD-WATER FIRETRAP ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN, THE HUMBLE CRADLE OF GREATNESS! I SPOKE TO THE LANDLADY... A WRY, OLD HARRIDAN!

HARRY COOPER? YEAH... HE LIVES HERE! HIS STUDIO'S ON THE TOP FLOOR! YOU CAN'T BE A FRIEND OF HIS... HE HATES EVERYBODY!

REALLY? I UNDERSTAND HE DOES SOME FINE WORK!



SAY, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUYING THOSE STATUES HE MAKES? LISTEN, IF THAT CRACKPOT DOES SELL YOU ONE... LET ME KNOW, WILL YA? HE OWES ME TWO MONTHS' RENT!

I SEE...

"IT WAS THE TYPICAL STARVING ARTIST SITUATION! BUT, IF THIS HARRY COOPER WAS THE TALENT I THOUGHT HE WAS... HE WOULDN'T BE HUNGRY FOR LONG! I CLIMBED THE OLD, NEGLECTED STAIRS AND KNOCKED ON COOPER'S DOOR...

WHATEVER, YOU'RE SELLING, WE DON'T WANT ANY! NOW BEAT IT! BEFORE I THROW YOU DOWN THE STAIRS...

YOU GOT IT WRONG, PAL! I'M BUYING, NOT SELLING!





# BLACK MAGIC

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOTICED YOUR WORK! I'M REPRESENTING THEM! I'M ALSO AN ART CRITIC IN MY OWN RIGHT!

SO YOU'RE AN ART CRITIC, EH? WHAT AM I SUPPOSE TO DO, **BOW?**



LOOK, MANSFIELD! I RECOGNIZED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST CAME UP! AND I STILL **DON'T** WANT ANY PART OF YOU! YOU GUYS ARE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF LEECHES TRYING TO...

**HARRY! PLEASE!**



HE ONLY WANTS TO HELP US... AND... GOODNESS KNOWS WE **NEED** HELP!

THE GIRL IS **RIGHT**, COOPER! GET RID OF THE CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER! I MAY BE INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING YOU **FAMOUS!**



HE LOOKED AT ME FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN, WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SIGN OF EMOTION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE STARTED TO WALK AWAY!



FROM THE MOMENT I STEPPED INSIDE THE THE STUDIO I REALIZED THAT THE WORK WALTER PEITIBONE HAD BOUGHT WAS ONLY A MINOR EFFORT, FOR STREWN (AND I USE THAT WORD ADVISEDLY) AROUND THE ROOM WAS THE **GREATEST TREASURE OF ART WORK I HAD SEEN IN ONE PLACE IN MY LIFE!**

GREAT SCOTT! I WONDER IF THIS MAN REALIZES THE **VALUE** OF HIS WORK...OR, THE EXTENT OF HIS **GENIUS!**



DO YOU LIKE THEM, MR. MANSFIELD?

IT'S **BREATHTAKING!** **ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING!**



YOU SO-CALLED EXPERTS ARE NOTHING BUT A LOT OF **FLEAS..** CRAWLING OVER THE WORK OF **OTHER FLEAS!** HOW CAN YOU ESTIMATE THE **REAL VALUE** OF MY WORK!



# BLACK MAGIC

ROSITA  
FELL  
DOWN  
THE STAIRS.  
THEY  
MUST  
HAVE  
HAD  
RISKS!  
I'VE  
COVERED  
MANY A  
STREET  
SCENE!  
MY  
CAMERA  
IS A  
SNAPPER-  
MAN,  
AND I  
KNOW  
KNUCKLE  
MARKS  
WHEN  
I SEE  
THEM!

THIS AFTERNOON YOU SAID YOU WERE SENT HERE BY WALTER PETTIBONE. ARE YOU COMMISSIONED TO BUY ANY OF HARRY'S WORK FOR HIM?

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, ROSITA?



PLEASE, MR. MANSFIELD! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! I DON'T WANT THE MONEY FOR MYSELF! IT'S FOR HARRY! HE...HE'S...

LOOK, MONEY! WHY, DON'T YOU BREAK DOWN AND GIVE ME THE WHOLE STORY ON THIS NUT! MAYBE, I CAN HELP YOU!



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, MR. MANSFIELD! HARRY IS A GOOD MAN... UNTIL A YEAR AGO, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO SEE A FINER, GENTLER SOUL! I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM... FOR, TO ME, HE REPRESENTED EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD THAT WAS CLEAN AND GOOD!



AND THEN, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM!

ANOTHER WOMAN?



IT WAS THAT I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY! I COULDN'T STAND IN THE WAY OF HIS HAPPINESS... EVEN IF IT MEANT GIVING HIM NO! NO, IT WASN'T ANOTHER WOMAN, MR. MANSFIELD! IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING WHICH I CANNOT EXPLAIN...



ONE DAY, JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN THAT ROOM YOU SEE OVER THERE! FOR DAYS HE DIDN'T COME OUT! HE SEEMED TO BE WORKING FURIOUSLY, COMPLETELY ABSORBED BY WHAT HE WAS DOING! I TRIED IN VAIN TO GET HIM TO OPEN THE DOOR! BUT, IT WAS NO USE...



FINALLY, ONE DAY, THE DOOR OPENED AND THE FIGURE OF A MAN EMERGED FROM THAT ROOM, WHO LOOKED LIKE HARRY! BUT A CHANGED HARRY! EVIL! UNCOUTH AND BEASTLY! LIKE MR. HYDE HAVING DONE AWAY WITH DOCTOR JEKYLL!





# BLACK

# MAGIC

ARE YOU CERTAIN  
THERE WAS NO ONE  
ELSE IN THAT ROOM  
WITH HIM?

I DON'T KNOW, HE'S  
FORBIDDEN ME EVER  
TO ENTER IT!



WELL HE HASN'T  
FORBIDDEN ME!

NO! YOU MUSTN'T GO  
THERE! YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT HARRY'S LIKE WHEN  
HIS ANGER IS AROUSED!



I'M ONLY TRYING  
TO GET TO THE BOTTOM  
OF THIS, ROSITA!

GO INTO THAT ROOM...  
AND YOU'LL WISH  
YOU'D NEVER BEEN  
BORN, MANSFIELD!



HARRY!

I'LL FINISH THE JOB I STARTED  
ON YOU AS SOON AS I'M...  
THROUGH WITH MANSFIELD!



I'M WARNING YOU,  
COOPER! IF YOU STRIKE  
THIS GIRL AGAIN...

PLEASE, MISTER MANSFIELD!  
YOU MUST GO! I... I'M  
SORRY I CALLED YOU...



THE PLEADING LOOK IN THE GIRL'S EYES, SOMEHOW  
TOLD ME THAT I'D BE HURTING HER MORE BY  
STAYING! BUT EVEN, AS I TURNED TO THE DOOR,  
I KNEW I WAS DOING THE WRONG THING!

IF YOU NEED ME, ROSITA...  
WELL... YOU KNOW WHERE  
YOU CAN FIND ME!





# BLACK MAGIC

I QUICKLY REGRETTED LEAVING HER ALONE WITH COOPER. NO SOONER HAD I EMERGED FROM THE SHABBY TENEMENT, WHEN ROSITA'S SCREAMS SHATTERED THE SILENCE OF NIGHT!



THE OLD WOOD IN THE DOOR WAS WEAK AND IT YIELDED TO MY SHOULDER, EASILY! I RUSHED INTO THE FORBIDDEN ROOM AND FROZE MY TRACKS! HARRY WAS THERE AND BESIDE HIM, WAS A WORK OF ART WHICH WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE FOR ITS SHEER BEAUTY!

CAN THAT BE THE WORK OF HUMAN HANDS? IT...IT'S EFFECT IS ALMOST **UNEARTHLY!** IS THAT REALLY YOUR WORK, HARRY?



IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, I WAS BACK UP THE STAIRS, AND AS I OPENED THE DOOR TO COOPER'S STUDIO...



DON'T GO IN THERE! HARRY'S GONE COMPLETELY MAD...HE'LL...

I'VE GOT A SURE CURE FOR IT! HE'S GOT THIS COMING TO HIM!



IT WAS A STATUE OF COOPER HIMSELF! THE MOST MAGNIFICENT PIECE OF SCULPTURE I HAD EVER SEEN! I READ THE TITLE...**"SOUL OF A MAN!"** AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND!

NOT EXACTLY, MANSFIELD! I HAD HELP! **HIGH PRICED HELP!** BUT, IT WAS WELL WORTH IT! STAGGERING ISN'T IT! K-KEEP AWAY! **DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!**



COOPER'S EYES BLAZED LIKE TWO, WHITE, HOT COALS! HE WAS NO LONGER HUMAN! HOW COULD HE BE? HE DIDN'T HAVE A SOUL! IT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM AND TRANS-PLANTED IN THE STATUE!

SO YOU'RE NOT A GENIUS AFTER ALL, ARE YOU, HARRY? YOU'RE MERELY THE TOOL OF AN EVIL POWER!





# BLACK MAGIC



DON'T SAY THAT! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW I'VE SUFFERED...

ROSITA! WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

IT'S TOO LATE, COOPER! SHE'S DEAD!



AT FIRST COOPER DIDN'T SEEM TO COMPREHEND WHAT HAD HAPPENED! BUT THEN, AS THE REALIZATION CAME TO HIM, HE ROSE TO HIS FEET, AND WITH THE FRENZY OF A THOUSAND DEMONS, BEGAN TO RUN FROM STATUE TO STATUE... SMASHING THEM TO PIECES!

I'M CURSED! CURSED! I TRADED MY SOUL! THERE'S A PIECE OF IT IN EVERY ONE OF THESE BLASTED STATUES!



"I COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE THESE PRICELESS WORKS BEING SACRIFICED TO A GUILTY CONSCIENCE NO MATTER WHAT THE MAN WAS, HIS WORK BELONGED TO THE WORLD! IN AN INSTANT, I WAS AT HIS SIDE, BUT I WAS TOO LATE! THE ENTIRE STUDIO WAS IN A SHAMBLES!"

STOP, COOPER! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

YES I DO! I'M DESTROYING MYSELF PIECE BY PIECE! I HAVE TO! I'M NOT COMPLETELY EVIL! I STILL LOVE ROSITA... AND, I MUST PAY FOR HER DEATH!



HERE IT IS, MISTER MANSFIELD! WHAT REMAINS OF MY SOUL IS IN THIS STONE! AND NOW IT MUST GO...



...TO... THE... DEVIL!

COOPER!



"HARRY COOPER DROPPED LIKE THE STONE HE SMASHED TO THE FLOOR! HE'D GIVEN HIS SOUL FOR HIS ART! BUT NOT COMPLETELY! PART OF IT WAS NOT FOR HARRY TO GIVE! HIS LOVE FOR ROSITA! THE DEVIL HAD NO CLAIM ON IT! I LEFT THINKING OF WHAT I COULD SAY TO PETTIBONE..."



ONLY  
2 by 3"



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**CLINICAL TESTS SHOW  
100% SUCCESS**

Actual clinical tests of 100 acne patients, with a new twin-action method and formula—show that the acne or pimples were decidedly improved or completely arrested in every single case tested!

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Imagine that! 100% success! Every case of acne helped! With the publication of these phenomenal results Ward Laboratories' chemists immediately reproduced the same formula, used so successfully in these tests, for your use at home. The general instructions given to each of these hospital patients are also included so that the home treatment parallels the one reported giving these record-smashing results. This amazing Ward's Skin Formula is now available for you. No matter what you have used—no matter how skeptical you are—you may at last put this wonderful treatment to the test in your own case—**NOW!**

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**HERE ARE THE AMAZING TEST RESULTS**

in 45 cases the pimple condition was completely cured

in 38 cases the pimple condition was greatly improved

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**100% success—in every tested case of pimples**



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# BLACK MAGIC

The people present saw him with their own eyes-heard him with their own ears. And now you can read the amazing, supernatural account of

## THE BOY WHO WAS 2000 YEARS OLD



HIS YOUNG, WASTED BODY TWISTED AND LEAPED BENEATH THE BLANKETS TO THE RISE AND FALL OF AN INVISIBLE LASH! AND, EYE WITNESSES WERE TO SEE MANY OTHER SIGNS OF TRUTH IN THIS MOST ASTOUNDING CASE HISTORY OF A BOY WHO INSISTED HE WAS A GALLEY SLAVE IN A NAVY WHICH HAD PASSED INTO HISTORY. WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THEM OR NOT, THESE ARE THE FACTS AS THEY HAPPENED.



# BLACK MAGIC

HAD IT HAPPENED TO A GROWN MAN THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRICKERY INVOLVED! THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LOGICAL EXPLANATION! BUT IT HAPPENED TO **ANDY LOOMIS**, A TEN YEAR OLD BOY!

LATIN? **THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!** ANDY'S STILL IN PUBLIC SCHOOL!

THAT'S STRANGE! HE SPEAKS LATIN WITH AMAZING FLUENCY! HE'S SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT **SHIPS AND GALLEY SLAVES...** AND THAT HIS NAME IS **SILANUS!**

FRANKLY, SIR! ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS WAIT FOR THE CRISIS TO DEVELOP! HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING A COLLEAGUE HERE TO LOOK AT THE BOY! **PROFESSOR HENNING** OF THE UNIVERSITY!

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO FOR ANDY?

WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE BOY, DOCTOR! HE JUST WOKE UP THIS WAY... MUMBLING WORDS WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND!

ANDY HAS PNEUMONIA, MRS. LOOMIS! DELIRIUM IS TO BE EXPECTED! BUT WHAT HE'S SAYING MAKES SENSE... IF YOU KNOW **LATIN!**



NOTHING, PROFESSOR HENNING IS A STUDENT OF ANCIENT LANGUAGES! I KNOW IT SEEMS ODD! BUT I'D LIKE HIM TO HEAR WHAT ANDY IS SAYING! MY LATIN IS RATHER LIMITED TO PRESCRIPTIONS AND THE LIKE!

EVEN THEN, THE DOCTOR MUST HAVE HAD AN INKLING OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE PHENOMENON WHICH WAS TAKING PLACE! IN THE END HE WON THE BOY'S PARENTS OVER!

WELL, PROFESSOR?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE JUST DESCRIBED THE DOCKS OF ROME! **ROME AS IT WAS TWENTY CENTURIES AGO!** AS IF HE HAD SEEN THE DOCKS WITH HIS OWN EYES!

HE SAYS HIS NAME IS **SILANUS**, AND THAT HE IS A SLAVE ABOARD THE IMPERIAL GALLEY OF THE EMPEROR **THERIUS CLAUDIUS**! I'D HEARD ABOUT SUCH CASES BEFORE, BUT...

SO HAVE I! MANY PEOPLE IMAGINE THAT THEY HAVE LIVED BEFORE BUT THEY DON'T ASSUME THE MIND AND MEMORY OF THAT SOMEONE ELSE DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL!





# BLACK MAGIC

PLEASE, WE DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WE'RE SAYING THAT THIS BOY IS YOUR SON. BUT HE IS ALSO SILANUS, A ROMAN GALLEY SLAVE WHO DIED TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

YOU--YOU'RE INSANE! HE'S JUST A BOY! HE PROBABLY READ ABOUT THIS SILANUS SOMEWHERE AND--

THAT MAY BE. YET, HOW CAN YOU ACCOUNT FOR HIS MASTERY OF LATIN? NO, MY FRIEND, THIS CAN'T BE EASILY EXPLAINED.



FOR HOURS, THE FEVER RACKED BOY RAVED ON! HE DESCRIBED THE RIVER TIBER AS HE HAD KNOWN IT, THE EMPEROR CLAUDIUS! THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF A LONG-DEAD CIVILIZATION. THEN, SUDDENLY--



OCCEDE... OCCEDE!

GREAT SCOTT!

HE TRIED TO STRANGLE YOU! HIS FINGERS WERE LIKE STEEL. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BREAK HIS HOLD!

OCCEDE -- WAS THE LATIN WORD FOR "KILL." THE BOY SAID HE HATED ME! THAT I WAS LUCIUS... THE SLAVE MASTER OF THE EMPEROR'S GALLEY!



AND NOW--HE THINKS HE'S KILLED ME. HE KNOWS THAT HE'LL BE BOUND TO THE MAST AND WHIPPED TO DEATH, BUT HE DOESN'T CARE! HE WANTS HIS LIFE OF MISERY TO COME TO AN END--

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY BOY! LEAVE HIM ALONE! YOU'RE NOT HELPING HIM!



YOU MUSTN'T BE FRIGHTENED BY ALL THIS, MISTER LOOWIS. THIS PROFESSOR ISN'T HURTING THE BOY-- ONLY LISTENING TO HIM. PLEASE BEAR WITH US--

NO! WE WANT NO PART OF YOUR MUMBO JUMBO! GET OUT!





# BLACK MAGIC



LISTEN /  
SUNRISE!  
SILANUS  
IS TO BE  
WHIPPED  
TO DEATH  
AT SUN-  
RISE...

BLAST YOU! I  
SAID GET OUT!

I... I THINK  
WE HAD BETTER  
GO PROFESSOR!

IT'S THE MOST  
AMAZING THING  
I'VE EVER  
WITNESSED,  
DOCTOR!  
IF THOSE  
PEOPLE  
WOULD  
ONLY LET  
US REMAIN...

PNEUMONIA IS  
A SERIOUS  
ILLNESS / THE  
BOYS CRUCIAL  
MOMENT SHOULD  
COME AT SUNRISE /  
IT'S STRANGE THAT  
THIS SILANUS HE  
SPEAKS ABOUT  
SHOULD MEET  
HIS FATE AT THE  
SAME  
TIME!

LEO HUNT WAS A DOCTOR, HIS  
FIRST CONCERN WAS FOR HIS  
PATIENT / EVEN THOUGH HE  
HAD BEEN DRIVEN OUT, HE  
RETURNED TO THE HOUSE AT  
SUNRISE!

OH, DOCTOR  
HUNT! ANDY'S FEVER BROKE  
AND HE'S SITTING UP! HE  
MUST BE GETTING WELL  
AGAIN.



IN THEIR HAPPINESS THE LOOMIS  
HAD FORGOTTEN THEIR UNFOUNDED  
RESENTMENT OF THE DOCTOR...

HE TWISTED  
AND TURNED  
IN AGONY  
ALL NIGHT!  
THEN HE  
WENT LIMB!  
WE THOUGHT HE  
WAS... BUT  
SUDDENLY HE  
OPENED HIS  
EYES... ANDY  
KNEW US...

NORMAL / HIS  
TEMPERATURE  
HAS RETURNED  
TO NORMAL!

MY  
BACK...  
IT... IT  
HURTS!

DOCTOR! HOW  
DID ANDY GET  
THOSE HORRIBLE  
MARKS ON HIS  
BACK? WHAT  
ARE THEY?

W-WHY  
THEY LOOK  
LIKE WELTS!  
THE SLASH  
MARKS THAT  
COULD ONLY  
BE LEFT BY A  
WHIP! BUT THEY...  
THEY'RE BENEATH  
THE SKIN... AND  
FADING FAST...

ANDY... LISTEN,  
LAD... DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT BEING  
WHIPPED ON  
THE DECK OF  
A GALLEY...

A GALLEY!  
WHAT'S A  
GALLEY,  
DOCTOR?



ANDY LOOMIS REMEMBERED  
NOTHING / HAD A PHANTOM  
RELIVED HIS DYING MOMENTS  
IN THE BODY OF A LIVING  
BEING / OR IS THERE SOME  
OTHER EXPLANATION? THE  
FACTS ARE THERE FOR YOU  
TO THINK ABOUT!



EVERY ROMANCE HAS PITFALLS. AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, HEARTBREAK, SAVE YOURSELF LOTS OF TRAGEDY. DON'T BE A FAUX PAS. FOR winning strategy, read **HOW TO GET ALONG WITH GIRLS** or **HOW TO GET ALONG WITH BOYS**. Put psychology to work - no more clumsy mistakes for you with these amazing handbooks!



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STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONGER  
HAIR  
DRESSES  
BETTER  
IN  
LATEST  
STYLES**





**NEVER BEFORE**

**A SPARE TIME MONEY-MAKING OFFER LIKE THIS  
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# ALL 3 BOXES OF FAMOUS CHILTON GREETING CARDS

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Imagine how thrilling it is to give or receive a card signed with real gold! Now Chilton—and Chilton alone—offers this amazing discovery. Now you can actually sign your name in real, rich dazzling 23-kc. gold! The complete gold-writing kit is included in the 21-card "Prize" Box!

Chilton Greetings Co.  
120 Kingston St., Dept. YH-10, Boston 11, Mass.  
1812 Roscoe St., Dept. YH-10, Chicago 13, Ill.

Please send me the three boxes of CHILTON Christmas Greetings described above, for which I enclose \$1.00 plus 30¢ postage. I must make \$2.20 clear profit or I may return the greeting cards within 10 days for full \$2.30 refund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zone, State \_\_\_\_\_

## NO-RISK TRIAL OFFER! YOUR PROFITS GUARANTEED!

EXAMINE these beautiful Chilton Greetings without risk. SHOW them to your friends and neighbors. READ the fascinating details of how thousands of members of the "Chilton Family" are making sensational profits, in spare time, just by talking to friends and neighbors! Unless your friends literally insist on buying these cards—giving you an IMMEDIATE PROFIT of \$2.20—then you'll owe you a single penny. But hurry! This is a limited time offer... mail the coupon at once!

**Chilton**

120 Kingston St.,  
Boston 11, Mass.  
1812 Roscoe St.,  
Chicago 13, Ill.



1/2

# PRICE SALE

1/2

**SAVE 50% OFF OUR REG. CREDIT PRICES!**

Select desired articles and write in NUMBER, NAME, PRICE in coupon. If a ring, state size. Or send 1/2" strip of paper to show finger size. Write clearly! Send no money now! Pay price shown, plus a few cents reg. All prices TAX PAID! No hidden extras for tax or mailing expenses! **SAVE MORE** and receive more by sending cash or money order and get 2 GIFTS!

**10 DAY TRIAL - MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

Now, compare, enjoy any or all these terrific bargains — in your own home for 10 whole days — at no risk or obligation for you! Full price back quick, if not delighted! You can't lose a cent! Besides you have 50% off our reg. credit prices and get real QUALITY!


**8<sup>75</sup>**  
NOT  
19.50

## BIRTHMONTH

### Glamorous Ladies' Watch

Exquisite **GLAMOUR** watch set with 2 large, beautiful **BIRTHMONTH** deep tone color stones, full of fire and brilliancy! 50 Pseudo **DIAMONDS** placed all around sparkle with heavenly effect! **Conditional GUARANTEE Certificate & Gift Box given. SEND NO MONEY.** Pay postman only 8.75 which includes tax and shipping cost—**NO EXTRAS!** Or send only 8.45 now for quick prepaid delivery & surprise gift! **10 DAY TRIAL.** Full price back if not delighted, **RUSH!**



**BEAUTIFUL CROSS**  
Divinely beautiful CROSS and 16 inch chain in the color of **NATURAL GOLD.** Sure to please and thrill your **SAVE!** Order by No. 554. Bargain price only **1.00**

#### "SUBLINE" ENGAGEMENT RING

Heavy weight! Beautiful **NATURAL GOLD COLOR** effect. Has one big Pseudo Diamond with 4 more on sides. Rich "princess" design. Smart & wedding looking. Order by No. 357. Only **2.97**

#### MEN'S INITIAL RING

Initial gift for HIM! His own **INITIAL** in raised Gold Color effect set in **RUBY** color stone flanked by 2 Pseudo Diamonds! Fashionable! Smart! Men—letter desired! Order by No. 401. Outstanding value, tax paid, only **3.48**

#### ARMY RING

A wonderful ring for that boy in service. Extra heavy **SILVER**! Big simulated **RUBY** in center. Super special! One-size quality. Lifetime value! Order by No. 389. Only **3.98**

#### "LOYALE" SET

50 glistening brilliants to resemble diamonds are featured in famous **LOYALE** wedding ring set. Gorgeous gold color! So beautiful! Compare! Order by No. 396. Both for **2.94**

#### DIAMOND\* LOCKET

AMAZING bargain! Chip\* **DIAMOND** locket in rich gold color effect with 16 inch chain. Holds 2 pictures of loved ones. Lifetime value! Order by No. 327. No. 37's not \$16.95! Our price **2.95**

Select any article on our **10-DAY FREE TRIAL**

#### "SPORTX" WATCH

Sturdy, accurate watch for active women & girls. Teachers, students, sportswomen, housewives, etc. Luminous numbers for night reading. Dainty! Pretty! **Conditional GUARANTEE** certificate & gift case given. No. 274. Bargain price (no extras) **6.95**



#### 1" INITIAL BRACELET

Rich gold color, heavy link chain construction that gives a style sensation that goes a lot to your costume and looks so heavenly! Mention your choice of letter desired. No. 552. Special price, tax paid **1.49**

**"PEACOCK" RING**  
15 Rhinestones in blazing rainbow hues! Beautiful "old" green, ruby, red, blue and diamond! White waters. Gold plated. Quantity! Beautiful! Order by No. 337. Our bargain price: **2.39** tax paid, only

**FREE!**  
No extra charge with your order when you open your package, you'll find a thrilling surprise gift, such as: Jewelry, Novelties, Watches, and useful articles — some worth up to \$4.00. The bigger the order — the better the gift! Your gift is yours to **KEEP** even if you return merchandise for refund! **SPECIAL OFFER:** if you send cash or money order with your order you receive a **GIFT** and **SAVE** on money order fee.

**LADIES' INITIAL RING**  
Your own initial in **ROYAL** gold color on a jet black stone! Surround by 10 imported Pseudo Diamonds! Mention letter desired. No. 352. Bargain price **3.49**

## 10 DAY TRIAL & GIFT COUPON

U. S. DIAMOND HOUSE, Dept. 69K-200  
127 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y.

Write NUMBER, name & price of articles. Pay price to postman on delivery. No return for full Satisfaction GUARANTEED or full price back quick! Send this paper strip to show ring size.

NUMBER	ARTICLE	PRICE

Your NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **SAVE MORE** — get more — by sending cash or money order with this coupon! We pay ALL fees and you get 2 GIFTS instead of only one!



# THE SECRET OF THE TREASURE CAVE.

How Gray Shadow Tracked Down the Mystery of Spike's Sudden Wealth.

# GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

## WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!



WE TRUST YOU

OUR 57th YEAR

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. GU-1451 Lyons, Pa. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Gentlemen: Please send me an oval, 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE as well as 25¢ a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ST. \_\_\_\_\_ R. D. \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SEND LAST NAME FIRST

OUR 57th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE!

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today.